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Title: Book I

Author: Isk

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Isk, a follower of the Humanis teachings, a Magincian, wrote the history of the war between the Allies and the Regency, beginning at the moment hostilities broke out, and believing that it would be a great war, and more worthy of notice than any that preceded it. This belief was not without grounds for both sides took great pain in making sure their side will be the victor in the ordeal. For the events of the past can not be accurately ascertained due to a lack of recorded history, the causes of most wars are left up to the imagination and the propaganda of the victor. Thus in this work the reader will see a close attention to detail, with emphasis on what both sides did before and during the war. The reader will note the appearance of speeches both actual and what would have been said according to the circumstances. A time of great victories and losses, the history of the battle for Serpent's Hold lies in your hands.

The Regency had two years prior formed itself out of a loose collection of allied guilds and cities and dedicated itself under one leader. Four regents had come and gone until Huma Dragonbane took

the throne: Dayel, Kronos, Azriel and Malicite of which Kronos remained in the loyalists as an ally of Huma and member of the city of Sanctus located on the newly discovered Malas. Of the Regents that preceded him Huma was the most ruthless and difficult to deal with. With the loss of Britain by an earlier military defeat the Regency moved to Serpent's Hold and set up their base from the fortified island believing that its fortifications would sway others from attack.

On the other end of the power scale the Brotherhood of the Hand and their leader Baeleron were positioned on the island of Jhelom which they had claimed five months earlier. Always a bitter rival of the Regency and the city of Sanctus, the ally of the Regent, the militaristic Brotherhood of the Hand felt threatened by the proximity of the enemy and desired to put an end to it as both Jhelom and Serpent's Hold are neighbors.

The conflict began not by aggressive actions from the B-H or the Regency, instead it came with the introduction of a new element into world politics. The Drow, Gorhun Morchiant and a handful of followers came to admire the surface world and desired a home to call their own. Because Serpent's Hold was an admirable position and the relations between the Brotherhood of the Hand

and Drow was not an aggressive one they decided to ally and rid themselves of the occupants of Serpent's Hold. It was thus that Cloudster, a member of the Brotherhood of the Hand sealed an alliance between Jeholm and the Drow. Finding that there was a need for allies the Brotherhood and the Drow ventured to Yew under the Felucca moon and set out to convince the Orcs, who in the past had been enemies of Jhelom, to help them in their attack on Serpent's Hold.

After presenting to the orcs an empty box which the Drow promised to fill with one million gold, the leader of the Drow spoke as follows:

"Orcs, let it not be said that we are different people. When the need for blood screams in our hearts and the desire for killing envelops us it is not the orcs who we chase but the dogs of the Regency who have lived as kings above the earth while we lived in shadows below it. As both of us are creatures of darkness we should be seen as allies to each other and common enemies of Dragonbane."

"If you ally with us and join in the attack on the capital of the Regency, the island of Serpent's Hold, we will be bound in blood eternally and will repay you the favor if ever you are in need for assistance. The call of the warrior must be